



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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11 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

General Thi's removal is now provoking some adverse reaction in his northern stronghold. A public protest meeting took place in Da Nang today. About a third of the estimated 1,500 participants were military men. "Corrupt people" in Saigon linked to the former Diem regime were blamed for the action against Thi. The demonstrators were orderly.

Reaction seems centered among Buddhists, high school - age students, and workers--restive elements long eager to demonstrate. The Buddhist hierarchy is evidently not involved at this point. The possibility of Viet Cong instigation cannot be ruled out, particularly in view of earlier reports that they had plans to exploit Buddhist unrest.

Ky and his associates are still apprehensive and they may not permit Thi the quick trip to his home in Da Nang they had originally offered. Thi is due to leave Saigon for the US next Tuesday.

2. North Vietnam

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3. Indonesia

The situation is becoming increasingly strained. Sukarno apparently drove home a hard line to his cabinet this morning, threatening to dismiss any minister who opposed his policies. The next round begins tomorrow--tonight, Washington time--when the President meets with his regional military leaders.

[redacted] the army expects Sukarno to use this second meeting to oust army commander Suharto. At last report, the military had still not decided on how to react to such a move.

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There is a possibility of more hostile action against the embassy over the weekend.

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[redacted] Subandrio is encouraging this kind of activity in "retaliation" for recent anti-Communist demonstrations.

4. Communist China

During the past few months, there has been speculation in the press [redacted] that Peking's third nuclear explosion will be thermonuclear. This may be what the Chinese have in mind, but if so it would provide Peking little but psychological gain.

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5. Guatemala

Peralta and his base commanders apparently agreed at their lengthy meeting yesterday not to take drastic action. The sessions are continuing today, but the details are not yet available.

Peralta at this point seems to be in control of the military, but there is a good deal of dissatisfaction over the election results. Because of this, he is said to be trying to find a "legal" way of denying the Mendez forces their full complement of seats in the congress. If Peralta succeeds in this tactic, Mendez and company will probably resort to violence.

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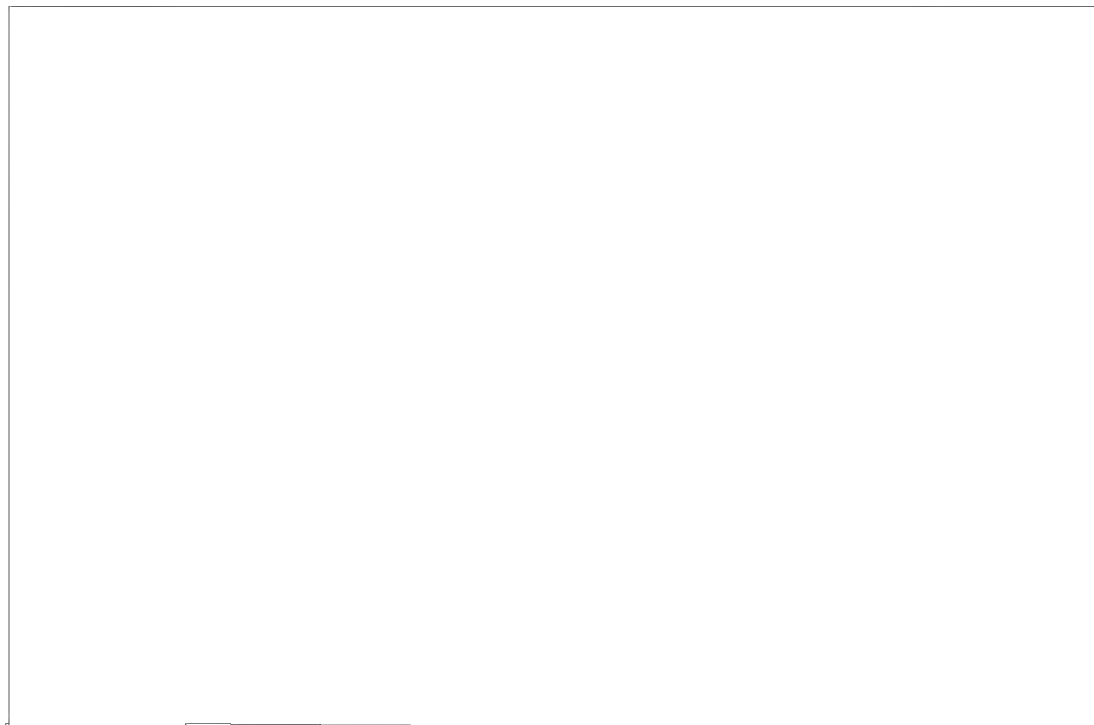
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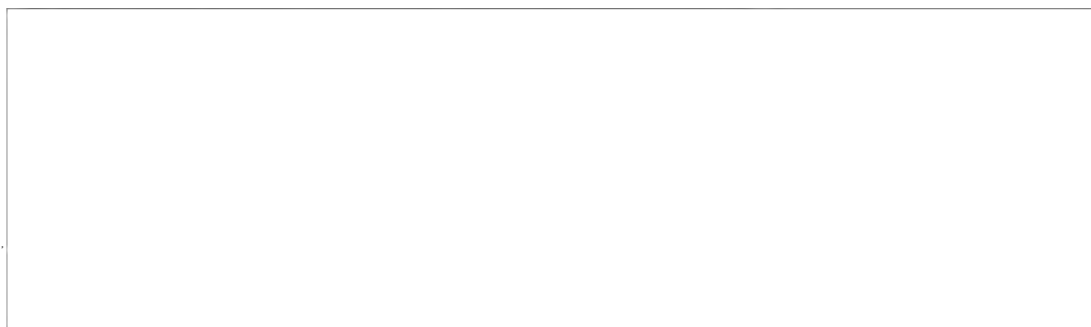
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